

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication system configured to provide distributed system monitoring, the telecommunication system comprising:

a control system; and

a plurality of peer communication devices, where each peer communication device, responsive to handling telecommunications data, collects performance data and transfers the performance data to the control system;

the control system, responsive to receipt of the performance data from the peer communication devices, processes the performance data from each of the peer communication devices to generate a performance file that indicates the performance of each of the peer communication devices, and transfers the performance file to each of the peer communication devices;

each of the peer communication devices, responsive to receipt of the performance file, processes the performance file to compare its performance to the performance of the other peer communication devices to detect a fault; and

responsive to detection of the fault, at least one of the peer communication devices processes the performance file to identify at least one recovery action, and performs the at least one recovery action to attempt to cure the fault.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 1 wherein the at least one peer communication device determines if the fault is cured by the at least one recovery action, generates a report of the fault if the fault is not cured by the at least one recovery action, and transfers the report of the fault to the control system.

6. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 5 wherein the control system, responsive to receipt of the report of the fault, identifies at least one recovery action, and performs the at least recovery action on the at least one peer communication device.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 1, wherein:

each of the peer communication devices periodically transfers the performance data to the control system.

9. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 1 wherein the performance data includes a performance grade for each of the peer communication devices.

10. (Previously Presented) The telecommunications system of claim 1 wherein the performance file includes a list of performance data for each of the peer communication devices.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a telecommunication system to provide distributed system monitoring, wherein the telecommunication system comprises a plurality of peer communication devices coupled to a control system, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting performance data in each of the peer communication devices responsive to the peer communication devices handling telecommunications data,

transferring the performance data from each of the peer communication devices to the control system,

processing, in the control system, the performance data from each of the peer communication devices to generate a performance file that indicates the performance of each of the peer communication devices,

transferring the performance file from the control system to each of the peer communication devices,

processing the performance file in each of the peer communication devices to compare its performance to the performance of the other peer communication devices to detect a fault; and

responsive to detection of the fault, processing the performance file to identify at least one recovery action, and performing the at least one recovery action to attempt to cure the fault.

12-14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:  
determining if the fault is cured by the at least one recovery action,  
generating a report of the fault if the fault is not cured by the at least one recovery action,  
and  
transferring the report of the fault to the control system.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:  
responsive to receipt of the report of the fault in the control system, identifying at least  
one recovery action, and performing the at least one recovery action on one of the peer  
communication devices.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of transferring the  
performance data from each of the peer communication devices to the control system comprises  
the step of:  
periodically transferring the performance data from each of the peer communication  
devices to the control system.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the performance data includes a  
performance grade for each of the peer communication devices.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the performance file includes a list  
of performance data for each of the peer communication devices.